

## **Charleton Parish Council.**

### **Minutes of a Meeting of Charleton Parish Council, held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009, at 7 pm., in Charleton Village Hall.**

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**Present were:-** Cllr. Parkinson, (Chairman, presiding) Cllrs. Allen, Ashley, Mottram Morgan and Smith.

**Also present:-** Cllr. Brazil (SHDC and DCC), PCSO Paul O'Dwyer, Mrs Raymond (Clerk), and two members of the public (Mrs Anna Westlake and Lady Claire Tod.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-** Mr Rex Brown (Press)
- 2. THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING,** held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009, had been circulated prior to the Meeting, together with notes of the non-quorate Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. The Minutes were taken as read, approved, and signed as correct, and the notes are included here.

**Present were:** Cllrs. Mottram, Allen and Ashley.

**Also present:-** Cllr. Baverstock (SHDC), Cllr. Brazil (DCC), Mr Rex Brown (Press), PC Steve Mutton, Mr Rob Harkness (Green Space Team SHDC), Mrs Raymond (Clerk) and one member of the public, Mr Agar of Curlew Drive.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr. Morgan.

Since the Meeting was not quorate, no official business could be conducted, nor any decisions made. However, the Councillors present were able to receive information from Mr. Harkness concerning the policy for maintaining the green spaces in the village. Mr Harkness showed a map giving the locations at which his team acted as sub-contractors for DCC, and cut the grass six times annually. He agreed that this was woefully inadequate, and not made any more satisfactory by the added complication of maintenance work being carried out within the parish by several different bodies. He recommended that the matter be taken up with DCC, but warned that any increase funded by DCC was unlikely to be allowed. He offered to send a quotation for the work to be carried out a further 6 times, should the Parish Council wish to consider paying for this to be done. The Parish Council may consider consulting Mr John Halliday and Mr Darren Pulman to discuss what can be done.

Cllr. Brazil said that DCC is at present discussing budget considerations, trying to protect front-line services, but tough decisions will have to be made, and cuts will be likely. Adjustments to street lighting, to reduce the carbon footprint and make economies, are being made, and lights will be switched off during the night. Car parking charges in Kingsbridge are still under review, and the Parish Council may wish to contact Mr. Stuart Hughes about the implications of the proposals. The Local Government Re-organisation seems to be running out of time, and there is little appetite for change, so that it is unlikely that major changes will take place in the near future, and the election next June leaves little time for legislation.

PC Mutton gave the crime figures for the area since May. Of the 8 reported crimes, 2 were marine thefts and four concerned commercial premises. The marine crimes included the theft of several very expensive outboard motors, when vessels were taken from their moorings to East Portlemouth where they were stripped of various valuable pieces of equipment. He urged everyone to be vigilant, and to report anything

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suspicious. The community messaging system has been having some problems, as Gail Bond has retired, but she will continue to work 4 hours per week in a voluntary capacity.

Cllr. Baverstock said that SHDC is also looking at the budget, and will reconsider everything which they are not obliged by statute to do, as they are looking for opportunities to off-load anything they can. He is a member of the Children's Trust and said that there have been several cases in Devon comparable to the notorious Baby P. case. He therefore urged that everyone should be vigilant, and report to the police or Social Services any suspicions they may have of children at risk. In response to an enquiry from Cllr. Ashley, he stated that the re-cycling facilities at Tor Quarry are not to be transferred to Newton Abbot, although some of the materials are sent to Newton Abbot for processing. At the meeting of the Harbour Board on Monday the theft at East Portlemouth was discussed, and while Harbour Watch still operates, it is up to everyone who uses the estuary to continue to look out for and report anything suspicious.

Mr. Agar was happy to report that work has been carried out on the two inspection hole covers belonging to BT in the road near his house which have been causing a nuisance by rattling when traffic crosses them. Mr. Brown remarked that he has noticed that these covers have not been level with the road surface, and have been uncomfortable to pass. Mr. Agar said that he would like the 20 mph limit to be extended to the edge of the village towards Kingsbridge, to the end of Curlew Drive. He said that he would write to Mr. Halliday to ask if this could be considered.

An application has been received for permission to carry out work on trees covered by a preservation order, and so the application will be passed to Dr. Earl the Tree Warden for his advice as to what recommendations the Planning Sub-committee should pass on to the Planning Department of SHDC. The matter will be dealt with at the Planning Sub-Committee Meeting to be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Notification has been received that there is no call for an election to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council, so the vacancy may be filled by co-option. Two candidates have expressed a wish to be considered, and so they will be invited to the next Meeting of the Parish Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

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### 3. MATTERS ARISING:-

- a) **Mr. Harkness-** Following the discussion of the maintenance of the green spaces in the parish, Mr. Harkness sent a quotation for extra grass-cutting, and suggested that an extra 7 cuts to bring the annual total to 13, would allow for a cut in March. Each extra cut would be £49.05, and so the 7 cuts would cost £343.35. It was noted that when the last cut was made, some of the areas were not touched. The Clerk was instructed to inform Mr. Harkness of this, and to ask for the scheduled work to be completed.
- b) **Casual Vacancy:-** Since no notification has been received from the Monitoring Officer that the vacancy following the resignation of Cllr. Jeremy Butler in November, it is still only possible for the Parish Council to co-opt one new Councillor. The Chairman, Cllr. Parkinson, invited the two members of the public to introduce themselves to the Councillors, as each expressed willingness to accept co-option. Cllr. Parkinson suggested discussing the matter further at the next Meeting, in the hope of reaching a decision as to who to co-opt then.
- c) **Telephone kiosks:-** The forms for applying for listed building status for the two kiosks have been received, and will be completed and returned to English Heritage as soon as possible.

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- d) Insurance- damage to fountain:-** The insurers have given written authorisation to allow the Parish Council to proceed with instructing Michael Heath to carry out the repair work for which he quoted the cost of just over £4000. The work will be started in early January.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:-** None.

- 5. PARISH WEB SITE UPDATE:-** No further information has been received concerning the photographs which may be provided by the Camera Club. The Web Site still requires some updating, as the information concerning the Parish Councillors is no longer correct. This will be rectified after the co-option of the new Councillors in January.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:-**

<u>From</u>	<u>About</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Action</u>
Darryl White, SHDC	Cluster Meeting, 13/10/09	Minutes	Copy to Cllrs
Whitehill Direct	Display Cases	email	Note & file
Darryl White, SHDC	Budget Meeting, 14/1/10	Invitation	No Cllrs to attend
Michael Heath	Damage to fountain	letter	Note & file
CCD	Conference on funding, 10/2/10	Invitation	No response
John Tucker SHDC	Devolved Services	letter	Note & file
DAPC	Devolved Services, Meeting 19/1/10	Invitation	2 Cllrs to attend
Rob Harkness SHDC	Cost of extra grass cutting	email	to be considered
CPRE	Best Kept Village Competition	entry form	No response
CCD	Parish Planning	leaflet	Copy to Cllrs
SHDC	Executive Forward Plan	4 sides A4	Display
CAB	Advice on Fuel Costs	leaflet	Display
CAB	Request for funding	letter	Refused
Various	Product brochures		Note & file
CCD	Deprivation in Devon	report	Available for consultation
CCD	Village Green newsletter	booklet	Available for consultation
DCC	Devontalk	booklet	Available for consultation
SHDC	Minutes of Meeting 19/11/09	14 sides A4	Available for consultation
D & E NHS	Newsletter Nov. 2009	booklet	Available for consultation
Clerks & Councils	Clerks & Councils Direct	booklet	Available for consultation
DPFA	The Playing Field newsletter	booklet	Available for consultation

Cllrs Mottram and Parkinson will attend the DAPC Meeting to discuss the devolved service scheme as being piloted in Stokenham.

Each Councillor will be sent a copy of the Parish Planning leaflet for consideration.

Cllrs. Allan, Mottram and Parkinson will be sent copies of the Minutes of the Cluster Meeting which they attended in October.

**7. PLANNING:-**

- a) Planning Sub-Committee recommendations:-** The Sub-Committee had two Applications for work to be carried out on trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders. As the Tree Warden, Dr. Earl, was unavailable for consultation until

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after the meeting, only one Application was dealt with, since it was considered to involve minor, necessary work to be carried out on trees on Dr. Earl's property. The second Application will be considered again by Cllr. Mottram and Dr. Earl.

### **Work to Tree Preservation Order Trees**

SHDC (Parish of Charleton) Tree Preservation Order 2003

Register Number of Notice: **2961**

Site: West Waterhead, West Charleton, Kingsbridge

The Parish Council recommended no objections.

**b) Applications:-** The Planning Sub-Committee will meet on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the following:-

Application No: **09/2060/09/F**

Location: 21 Charleton Way, West Charleton, TQ7 2AN

## **8. REPORTS:-**

- (i) **SHDC and DCC:-** Cllr. Brazil reported that SHDC still has the question of the introduction of on-street parking charges in Kingsbridge under consideration. Street lights are beginning to be switched off between 0.30 and 5.30 am. DCC members are anxious about the forthcoming budget as cuts may have to be ratified in February. The latest legal challenge to the Local Government Re-organisation has been thrown out, and there may not be time to make changes during the term of the present Government. The status quo does not meet with the approval of the Boundary Commission, but may well be what has to be accepted if time runs out. Cllr. Brazil will be re-instated in his roles with SHDC after his present ban, from 18<sup>th</sup> December.
- (ii) **Police:-** PCSO Paul O'Dwyer reported that the crime figures for the area for the last 100 days are similar to those of the same period last year, with 3 reported break-ins, 2 at commercial premises and 1 marine. A new initiative is being introduced whereby members of the community are to be encouraged to volunteer as Speed Watch Monitors. They will be trained to use the radar speed gun, to operate speed checks on suitable stretches of the roads. The training will take 6 months, after which the Speed Watch Volunteers should be able to work at the police station recording data on the Speed Watch Database, and operate speed checks in teams of 2 or 3, noting data on speeding motorists. They will not stop traffic, but speeding motorists will be entered on the Speed Watch Database, and will receive written warnings that they have been observed speeding. Volunteers are invited to contact Devon and Cornwall Constabulary on the web site [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/generalenquiries\\_or\\_telephone\\_08452\\_777444](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/generalenquiries_or_telephone_08452_777444). Increased traffic department patrols are now being deployed in cars and on motor cycles, along the A379 in response to concerns expressed by the Parish Councils from Kingsbridge to Dartmouth. PCSO O'Dwyer, together with various health care professionals, has visited Charleton School recently at the invitation of the Headteacher Mrs Perkins, to speak about alcohol, drugs and tobacco during the Healthy Living Week. Community Police Cadets are being introduced. Recruitment has started locally, to engage young people of 13 to 18, especially but by no means exclusively, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and so far 26 young people are to begin undergoing training in the new year. They will learn about the community work

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performed by the police, and will visit local communities to identify local needs and concerns, social and health issues, which they will consider. Cllr. Baverstock supports this initiative as Champion for Youth.

- (iii) **School:-** No report.
- (iv) **Village Hall:-** Electrical work due to be done recently was postponed due to the contractor pleading pressure of work, but a temporary weatherproof socket will be fitted for the Christmas tree which will be set up on Saturday. Christmas trees will be on sale from the donor of the village tree for the next 3 Sundays from 10 to 4 o'clock in the Village Hall car park. The new Notice Board has been ordered, and the Parish Council agreed to honour the pledge to donate £200 towards the cost. The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee will be held in February 2010 under the chairmanship of Mr. Ken Gill.
- (v) **Footpaths:-** Cllr. Allen reported that Footpath 3 is very muddy at present. The Clerk was instructed to obtain advice from Mr Rennells on organising work on the proposed extension to the Link Path towards East Charleton. Written confirmation will be sought from CJL Rogers for the use of the land needed, before the Parish Council will seek estimates from local firms for the work on the path.
- (vi) **Allotments:-** Due to the difficulties of Health and Safety concerns, and the inclement weather, the proposed bonfire and barbecue was cancelled. The annual Christmas Dinner will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December at the Ashburton Arms.
- (vii) **Events Committee:-** Cllr. Ashley reported that the AGM was held in November, when the decisions to donate towards the cost of new mood lighting and the new notice board at the Village Hall were confirmed. A small but very enjoyable Wine-Tasting Evening was held on 21<sup>st</sup> November. There will be a Quiz Night on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010, to raise funds for St. Luke's Hospice and the Coleridge Bus, and a Grand Draw to publicise and encourage sponsorship for Ben Rogers in his entry in the London Marathon will also take place during the evening. Cllr. Allen expressed his thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to the Events Committee for their financial support of the bedding plants for the village flowerbeds.
- (viii) **Coleridge Association:-** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. As Cllr Mottram will be unable to attend, Cllr. Smith will join Cllr. Parkinson at the meeting in East Allington.
- (ix) **Saltstone Group:-** Nothing to report.

## 9. FINANCE:-

- a) **Bank mandate:-** The completed mandate to change the cheque signatories to Cllrs. Mottram, Parkinson and Smith, has been completed and will be submitted to the bank as soon as possible.
- b) **Statement of accounts:-** The Current Account stands at £1287.08, and the Business Premium Account at 66p.
- c) **Receipts:-** The sum of £15 was received from Bowcombe-with-Charleton WI as a contribution towards the cost of refurbishment of the Notice Board. A letter of thanks has been sent.
- d) **Precept 2010/11:-** The Clerk recommended that the Precept should be increased by a substantial amount, and will prepare a brief projected budget for the consideration of the Councillors at the January meeting, when the amount will be decided.
- e) **Cheques for approval:-** the following cheques were approved for payment:-

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Cheque no.100826, £40.00 to G. Allen for flowerbed maintenance, No.  
Cheque no.100827, £256.35 to F. Raymond for Clerk's salary Oct/Nov/Dec  
Cheque no.100828, £46.60 to A. Westlake (replacement for Cheque lost.  
Cheque no.100829, £200.00 to Village Hall Fund towards new Notice Board  
The total amount available in the Current Account will now be £744.13

**10. HIGHWAY AND COMMUNITY:-**

- a) **The pilot scheme for devolved powers:-** Further information regarding this matter will be obtained at the forthcoming DAPC meeting, and a report will be given at the Parish Council Meeting in January.
- b) **Village open spaces:-** At a recent Cluster Meeting Cllr. Allen obtained information on strategies for finding land for village open spaces (village greens), and passed a copy to each Councillor for consideration, and discussion at the next Meeting.

**11. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:-**

**Parish Plan.  
Link footpath continuation  
Open space strategy  
Precept 2010-11  
Dates of meetings in 2010**

**12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:-**

**Planning Sub-Committee, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009  
Parish Council Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

F.R/ 5/12/09

Signed as a true and accurate record of the Meeting,

Signature.....

Date.....

.....Chairman